

NO BLOCKADE NOW; BRITAIN FEARS EFFECT

**Sir Edward Grey Against
Antagonizing Neutrals,
He Tells Commons.**

TO CONSULT FRANCE ABOUT U. S. DEMANDS

**Defends Orders in Council
—Says Every Precaution
Is Being Taken.**

**FOREIGN OFFICE NO
DRAG ON THE NAVY**

Secretary Doubts Adjacent Countries Reship Cargo to Germany.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, Jan. 26.—The speech of
Sir Edmund Gosse, the Member for

afternoon on the blockade policy of Great Britain dispelled all hopes among those favoring a declaration of a formal blockade of Germany that the Government would take such action.

He said that the policy of the Foreign Office in the enforcement of the Orders in Council had been and of necessity must be consistent with the rights of neutrals. "We cannot take such a position," he said, "as would make the grass grow in the streets of neutrals."

In return he demanded of neutrals the recognition of the right of Great Britain to interfere with goods destined for belligerent countries according to the principles recognized in the civil war.

The Foreign Secretary made the following statement:

"A thorough investigation by the Government of the situation with regard to shipments to Germany shows that everything possible is being done without causing serious troubles with neutrals."

If, he added, there was any political pressure on the Government, it would be pleased to examine it and if appeared equally effective to consider it.

With regard to the negotiations with the United States and the intentions of the government in treating America protests he said:

Consulting France.

"We are applying the doctrine of continuous voyage. We quite agree that we want common action with our Allies, and that is what we had with France when the Order in Council was issued. "We are going to answer the last United States note, but in the first instance in consultation with the French."

Government. That consultation is not taking place, and consultations with other Allies who are concerned in carrying out of our policy may follow.

The long awaited debate in the House of Commons was opened with a resolution introduced by Arthur Shirley Bell and seconded by Leslie Scott.

The resolution was as follows:

That this house, having noted the

volume of imports into neutral countries bordering on enemy territory of goods essential to the enemy for the prosecution of the war, urges the Government to enforce as effective a blockade as possible without interfering with the normal requirements of those neutral countries for international trade.

Mr. Bann in introducing his motion urged the Government in conjunction with the Entente Allies to declare that of the entire cross-oceanic trade of Germany should be prevented by blockade. He did not think America would object, he said, because such action would

Compensation to Neutrals.

Mr. Scott in seconding the motion recommended the declaration of a blockade of all the enemy countries by the Allies, all goods for neutral countries to be in conformity with the principles laid down by Lincoln in the civil war.

being presumed to be intended for the enemy. He stated that although Great Britain ran a certain risk with the neutral countries, there was never known a commercial loss that could be made good by compensation. The Order in Council of March 11 should be withdrawn, he declared, on

ground that it had not given satisfaction and was ineffective.

In his defence of the Government's policy to the Foreign Office, Sir Edward Grey said:

"The statement that the navy was doing its utmost to prevent goods from reaching the enemy, and that the Fleet was increased, and made its presence

The task of the Foreign Office regarding the larger question is much more complicated and burdensome than one had supposed. The Foreign Office had to retain the good will of neutrals and keep diplomatic relations so that there was no chance that supplies

"If the Foreign Office establish a blockade they must do it consistently with the rights of neutrals. They must let through these lines vessels destined for neutral ports with bona fide neutral cargoes. They could not take such action as would make the grass grow under their feet."

"They must discriminate between various classes of vessels going through. That is exactly what is being done. The adopted the proposals put forward we do not make the precautions more effective except that the old technical blockade, if it were adopted, would confiscate m

goods than the present system is doing. That is not calculated to make a blockade any more agreeable to new nations.

"What leakage there has been cannot have been stopped altogether. Whenever system was adopted, we could take over the administration of new nations."

countries or prevent the smuggling of goods.